



The Navigator Pastor's Message



I am lost without my smartphone. It's easily misplaced and when it's lost, so am I. Few things in life are more disconcerting than feeling lost. Thank goodness for the "Find my Phone" function on my tablet.

The gospels have numerous stories that Jesus told about being lost. One is about a shepherd and a wandering sheep: "All the tax collectors and sinners were gathering around Jesus to listen to him. The Pharisees and legal experts were grumbling, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Jesus told them this parable: "Suppose someone among you had one hundred sheep and lost one of them. Wouldn't he leave the other ninety-nine in the pasture and search for the lost one until he finds it? And when he finds it, he is thrilled and places it on his shoulders. When he arrives home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Celebrate with me because I've found my lost sheep.'" Luke 15:1-6 CEB

He follows with similar stories about a lost collector's coin and a lost son. As with the lost sheep, each resonates with the desperation of losing something or someone so precious, the absolute determination to regain them, and the relief and exuberance of recovering such treasured possessions or relationships.

And as his stories unfold at least two themes emerge. First, God considers precious those whom many condemn. It is so easy to rush to judgment knowing little of another's story or background. In contrast, God knows all our stories and still loves us. Despite other's opinions or even our own self condemnation He still desires us. As the sheep knows the voice of the true shepherd, we too can turn our ear to God's invitation to experience his love and grace.

Secondly, God goes to any length to find and renew his lost children. He did not create us to live in isolation from him or one another. Sheep belong in the fold, coins need to be in the collection, and lost sons and daughters are welcome at the family table. He will never cease searching and calling us to Himself until we are seated.

So, where do you find yourself in Jesus story? Feeling lost? Separated? Unworthy? Judgmental? Whichever, what matters is that God loves you. And that is the most important story of all.



Hello Everyone,

Hope everyone who is reading this article is healthy and well. Thought I would share some info on Advanced Directives this newsletter.

I have discovered that only 33% of adults have completed a directive. There are only 2 guarantees in life, death and taxes. It is best to be prepared for the first.

An advanced directive is a guideline. It is written instructions regarding one's end of life preferences. They can be generic or detailed. It only goes into effect when a person is unable to make their own decisions. Topics that are included are cardiopulmonary resuscitation, placement of breathing tubes and life support, and specifics around nutrition and artificial feeding.

I completely understand that these are not easy decisions to make. Decisions can be influenced by spouses, children and grandchildren. It is important to remember your own autonomy.

All advanced directives will ask for the name of someone who will make health care decisions if you are unable to. This person is known as the power of attorney. That person needs to know that you have chosen them and that they are comfortable advocating for you.

If you don't have an advanced directive, in the US there are "family consent laws" that provide a hierarchy of authorized family members to act as decision makers with usually spouse first followed by an adult child. For families with many adult children the law does not specify which adult child can make the decision. Thus the importance of an advanced directive.

An advanced directive is not permanent and can be changed instantly. A myth is that only the elderly or sick need one. You do not need to hire a lawyer to complete it. Blank, easy to use forms can be found online and printed for free.

Continued next column:

The most important step after you have filled it out is to let others know that you have done so.

Excellent resources are available to help people. The "Conversation Project" through the Institute for Healthcare Improvement is excellent. Your Guide to choosing a Healthcare Proxy (power of attorney) is useful. Medical bracelets and/or wallet cards titled Advanced Directive Alert are useful for EMS during an emergency.

Submitted by:

Brenda Pineau R.N.



FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME

On June 26, we were visited by Elisabeth Gaad, Chief Development Officer of the Children's Home. I hope you were here. I certainly learned a few more things about this important ministry from Elisabeth's presentation.

Every 5th Sunday is designated as Fifth Sunday Offering. That Sunday, July 31, just passed. If you were unable to attend services you can still make a special Fifth Sunday gift to the Children's Home. Just indicate on your check that it is for the Children's Home. Your support goes a long way toward providing a space where our children don't have to carry their burdens alone. They experience, first hand, the tangible presence of Christ!

Blessings,

RoseMarie Ash

Children's Home Representative



August 5th & 6th @ 8 am-1 pm

Christmas lights & outside decorations along with lots of inside items, Many New items, Household Decor, Crafts, Glassware, Electronics, Small Appliances, Books, Pictures, Baskets, Linens, Toys, Games, Jewelry, Pots, Pans, Dishes, Lamps, Puzzles, Yard items, Tools, Entire building of Ladies Boutique items, Clothes for Guys & Gals & Kids, Shoes, Purses.

Small Furniture, Luggage, Folding chairs,

Yard chairs, camping supplies, bookcases, & Lots of other Stuff! Inside 4 buildings with A/C!

BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

**** Food & Drinks available ****

Mariner United Methodist Church

7079 Mariner Blvd

Spring Hill, FL 34609



We will resume our Sunday School classes on Sunday September 11. The time will remain the same: 8:45 to 9:45.

Our subject for 8 weeks will be THE BIBLE JESUS READ by Philip Yancey. We will be studying God's biography, The Old Testament. If you think it's just a mysterious, outdated book, THINK AGAIN. It's the Bible Jesus read, used and loved. Please let me know if you plan to attend. I want to make sure there are enough books. Look forward to seeing you there.

RoseMarie Ash 727-272-2012

rosemarieash295@gmail.com

REPORTS FOR May/June



For the month of May we served 77 families consisting of 196 adults and 88 children. We had a total of ten volunteers who worked 83 hours. We purchased \$991.21 worth of groceries.

For the month of June we served 94 families consisting of 231 adults and 94 children. We had a total of nine volunteers who worked 101.75 hours. We purchased \$1,687.67 worth of groceries.

Every family receives one paper bag with 11 items that are purchased by the church using your monetary donations. Extra bags are made of items brought by you our church members for larger families. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our pantry.

The third Sunday of the month is designated for food pantry donations, August 21 and September 18. Your monetary donations are appreciated and needed. The cost of food is rising.



NAME THAT AVATAR

Does the above image remind you of anyone?? He will be serving you at the Yard Sale Café on Friday, August 5, and Saturday, August 6. If you are really stumped give the office a call and the office workers will give you some more hints.

CRAFT GROUP NEWS



The Crafters want to thank everyone who made prayer shawls and lap robes and to all who gave one to someone in need of a spiritual uplift. We have placed more in the Narthex to be given as a gift of love and faith.

The Crafters were very happy to contribute \$1,000 to the church. \$800 went to the general fund and \$200 to the back pack fund.

Please stop in the Crafters Room at the Yard Sale, we have many items for your early Christmas shopping. Come and see our new things. Don't forget we have a baby and a queen sized hand quilted spreads which will be given away in April 2023. Remember to buy your tickets for a chance to win.

We meet in Van Dyken every Tuesday morning at 10:00 am. Come and join us, or if you need an item or two we would be glad to help you.

Submitted by Edna Huff

MESSAGE FROM STAFF

PERISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The committee is still in the process of evaluating applications and fine tuning the job description for our new custodian. We would like to thank our volunteers who stepped up and helped us keep our buildings clean and organized. We would also like to acknowledge Blas Acosta and the Vida Nueva Bible Study who meets in Fellowship Hall on Sunday's. They have done a fine job cleaning the hall and have committed to keep the hall clean and maintained. The following people have worked very hard for us here at Mariner

Doug Clark, Buzz & Nancy Cochran, Alice Helm, Edna Huff, Judy McPherson, Mark Stoy, Bill Vonada, and Joe Wallace. Our apologies to anyone who we may have missed in this list.

We would also like to wish our prior custodian, Jerry Harvey, blessings and best wishes in his future endeavors.

PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THOSE IN ASSISTED LIVING & HOMEBOUND

Vitality Evergreen

Barbara Cornwell

JoAnne Gangel

Priscilla Sears

Lois Stanton

Spring Hill Rehab

Gloria Averill

Doug Jumisco

The Residence

Bob Beckner

Ann Hartung

And Our Homebound

Phyllis Chiswell

Jane Davis

Joan Nichols

Mary Ellen Stoy

Millicent Van Fossen

In Our Father's House

Grayson Alexander

The Oaks

Freddie (Mary) Worley

Private Home

Elaine Hill

Evergreen Woods

Shirley Vonada

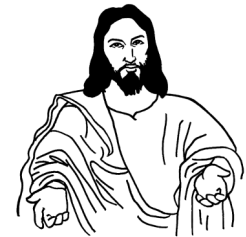
Serenity House

Elaine Toberman

Ina Blyd

The Grande

Jim Dillinger



Memorials Given in memory of:

Johnnie Sue Dillinger by Linda Beckner, Steven Brantley

Grayson Alexander by Dick & Judy Coleman, JoAnne Gangel, Ruth Lucrezi, Jim Morris, and Ron & Bonnie Ruge.

BACK PACKS – SCHOOL SUPPLIES



We were able to put together 48 back packs with lots of supplies this year. A total of 14 were distributed to high school & middle school students and 5 back packs were given to the Spanish Pastor. 29 of them were delivered to Spring Hill Elementary. They were all delighted with them. A special "THANK YOU" to everyone for supplies, money and assistance in putting them together.

CAN YOU HEAR ME?



Hi friends. Thought I would focus today on hearing health. Hearing is combinations of interactions in your ear. The interactions convert the sound waves into signals that your brain interprets.

The waves enter the ear, causing both the eardrum and bones inside your ear to vibrate. Hairs which are small and very fragile turn the vibration into electrical signals and are sent to the brain for interpretation as sounds.

Sound levels are measured in decibels. Over 80 decibels is "loud" Hearing can be impacted by loud sounds and by how long you are exposed to them.

Even brief exposure to loud noise (a concert for example) can cause a temporary hearing loss. Long term exposure can damage the fragile hairs in the inner ear and lead to permanent hearing loss. The louder the noise the shorter the time of exposure should be.

A whisper is anywhere from 30 to 39 decibels. A thunder clap 120 to 130 decibels. An ambulance siren 100 to 109. Those are just a few examples.

There are easy ways to protect your hearing. Ear plugs, noise cancelling headphones, or moving to a quieter area are all effective. Giving your ears a break after extended exposure is also helpful.

See you soon. Stay safe and please vaccinate, boost, maintain distance and wear a mask . Covid numbers are again on the upswing.

Submitted by:

Brenda Pineau R.N.



The Hartley Family, Bill, Barbara and Patricia have moved north, to Ohio, so they can live closer to family members. They attended Mariner for 38 years. Bill was on the building committees for the present sanctuary and Van Dyken Hall. He participated as chairperson for the Trustees, designed and built numerous pieces of furniture throughout the buildings, taught Sunday School, a member of the Endowment Committee, Finance Chair, helped with yard sales, ministry council and administrative board, worked in the Food Pantry, hosted families during hurricane season, worked as sound technician for CPAG and sang in the choir. Barbara was a member of the Craft Group and was involved with Way Out Wednesday's Youth Program (W.O.W), active in United Methodist Women, Sunday School teacher and superintendent, worked Vacation Bible School, ushered for CPAG, counted the money at the Yard Sales and she also sang in the choir. Patricia was an energized young woman who helped out wherever she was needed. She gave people rides to doctor appointments and was a companion to those in need. The family would like the Mariner attendees to know that they will be missed. They are grateful for the kindness and love they were given over the many years they attended services and fellowshiped among the community.

Their future address is: 405 Vine St., Waverly, Ohio 45690.

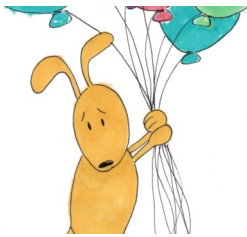


United
Methodist
Women

Greetings Women of Mariner!

It's been some time since the women have met as a group. The pandemic was the initial big factor. Then sickness and deaths were obstacles. Interest seemed to fade. But, after much prayer and discussion, it's been decided to revamp our women's ministry here at Mariner. Women and children will remain our focus. Keep your eyes on upcoming Sunday bulletins. We are planning to launch WOMEN OF FAITH near fall time.

May God lead us in the right direction.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

AUGUST

- 08/10 Bill & Barbara Gray
- 08/11 Jim & Nanci Blance
- 08/18 William & Bonnie Brown
- 08/19 Jake & Alice Helm
- 08/27 Robert & Kathy Myers

SEPTEMBER

- 09/01 Ralph & Marie Wallen
- 09/02 Roger & Judy Jones
- 09/04 John & Anne Owens
- 09/05 Ray & Carol Owens
- 09/06 Bob & Earlene Harvey
- 09/18 Don & Carol Fowler
- 09/20 Wayne & Judy McPherson
- 09/29 Richard & Judy Coleman
- 09/30 Ron & Peg Thomas



AUGUST

- 08/02 Virginia Walz
- 08/04 Bob Harvey
Sam Smith
- 08/07 James Smith
- 08/09 John Ross
- 08/11 Gwen Bennett
- 08/12 Ron Ruge
- 08/14 Caroline Sachs
- 08/19 Shirley Schanley
- 08/20 Pamela Eichel
- 08/22 Dorothy Coe
- 08/24 Don Ralston
- 08/28 Bob O'Connell
- 08/29 Millicent Van Fossen
- 08/30 Mary Ellen Stoy

SEPTEMBER

- 09/09 Elaine Dillard
- 09/12 James Legacy
- 09/13 Marvin Huff
- 09/18 Vicki Antonakos
- 09/23 Doug Jumisco
Carmen Silva
- 09/24 Patrick McCulloch
- 09/26 Mary Frances Smith



DRIVE CAREFUL!



Eternity just got a little longer.